

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of atherosclerosis, which method comprises:

treating a patient having (i) atherosclerosis, (ii) two or more risk factors selected from the group consisting of obesity, smoking, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and family history of premature coronary heart disease, or (iii) a condition selected from the group consisting of very high plasma concentrations of cholesterol and/or triglycerides, hyperlipidemia that is not secondary to underlying disease, and elevated LDL-cholesterol, wherein said patient is treated by repeatedly administering to the patient, for four or more weeks, one or more Growth Hormone Releasing Peptides (GHRPs) to a patient in need of such treatment or prophylaxis, and wherein said repeatedly administering is carried out under conditions effective to treat or prevent atherosclerosis.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the patient is at risk of developing atherosclerotic plaques, or cardiovascular disease associated with atherosclerosis, and said repeatedly administering is effective to prevent development of atherosclerotic plaques, or cardiovascular diseases associated with atherosclerosis.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the patient has atherosclerotic plaques, and said repeatedly administering is effective to cause a reduction in the area of atherosclerotic plaques.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the one or more GHRPs are hexarelin (His-(D)-(Me)Trp-Ala-Trp-(D)-Phe-Lys-NH₂, SEQ ID NO: 1) or EP80317 (Haic-(D)-(Me)Trp-(D)-Lys-Trp-(D)-Phe-Lys-NH₂, SEQ ID NO: 2).

7-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing or treating atherosclerosis, which method comprises:

treating a patient having (i) atherosclerosis, (ii) two or more risk factors selected from the group consisting of obesity, smoking, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and family history of premature coronary heart disease, or (iii) a condition selected from the group consisting of very high plasma concentrations of cholesterol and/or triglycerides, hyperlipidemia that is not secondary to underlying disease, and elevated LDL-cholesterol, wherein said patient is treated by repeatedly administering to the patient, for four or more weeks, a patient in need of such prevention or treatment a CD36 ligand that binds to a hexarelin binding site on CD36 reduces uptake of oxidized low-density-lipoprotein (oxLDL), and wherein said administering is carried out under conditions effective to prevent or treat atherosclerosis.

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said repeatedly administering is carried out daily.

30. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 29, wherein daily said administering is carried out for at least six four or more weeks.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the GHRP does not induce secretion of growth hormone.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of atherosclerosis, which comprises:

administering to a patient in need of such treatment one or more Growth Hormone Releasing Peptides (GHRPs) that do not induce secretion of growth hormone, wherein said administering is carried out daily using an amount of the one or more GHRPs that is effective to cause reduction of atherosclerotic lesion area or delay of lesion progression.

33. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the one or more GHRPs is EP80317 (Haic-(D)-(Me)Trp-(D)-Lys-Trp-(D)-Phe-Lys-NH₂, SEQ ID NO: 2).

34. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the one or more GHRPs is EP80317 (Haic-(D)-(Me)Trp-(D)-Lys-Trp-(D)-Phe-Lys-NH₂, SEQ ID NO: 2).